

REMARKS UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The amendments proposed in this Response address the issues on page 3 of the office action. No new matter has been added. Entry and allowance are requested.

Regarding the substitute OATH/DECLARATION requirement on page 3 of the office action, attention is kindly drawn to the duly executed substitute OATH/DECLARATION filed November 15, 2001 which shows the addresses of each of the inventors. Applicant requests a call from the Examiner if copies of that communication, signed document and stamped mail room receipt are required.

Claims 1-47 and 48-52 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Welsch (3,358,950) and Forrester (5,620,058).

The Examiner relies on applicant's own prior patent in the rejection of all the claims. The forrester patent and the present application are commonly owned by virtue of assignments recorded at the patent office in both the cases.

The undersigned states:

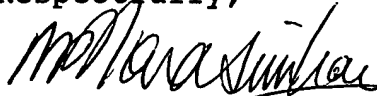
This application, U.S. Serial No. 09/973,005, and U.S. Patent 5,620,058 were, at the time the invention of this application (09/973,005) was made, owned by CERBERUS INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, INC. The Assignment in Patent 5,620,058 is recorded on reel 7480 frame 0623. The assignment in this application is recorded on reel 012240, frame 0471. MPEP § 706.02(1)(2) pp. 700-39.

Therefore Applicant's own prior patent is not available as a reference against the present claims. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections is respectfully requested.

Forrester is not available as a reference and claims 1-52 define unique features that are patentable over Welsch. Nothing in the references, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed features. Therefore, the references cannot anticipate nor render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Since Applicant has presented a novel, unique and non-obvious invention, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) A rapid deployment system comprising an aircraft, at least one inflatable landing tube coupled to the aircraft, the at least one landing tube comprising an inner surface, an outer surface, a top end and an open bottom end, an inflatable exit slide positioned at the open bottom end of the landing tube, an air source connected to the landing tube and the exit slide for inflating the landing tube and the slide to an optimum pressure, and plural connectors positioned on the landing tube for coupling the landing tube to the aircraft, at least one entry port leading into the landing tube, and plural flexible retarders extending inward from the inner surface of the landing tube for retarding gravitational descent of cargo and[/or] personnel from the aircraft.

39. (Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising slide smocks for covering the cargo and[/or] the personnel to reduce possibility of snags during descent.